

*at* acetate, styrene, acrylamide and vinylpyrrolidone.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP '597 to Tanaka et al. The rejection is traversed.

The subject matter of claims 5 and 6 have been incorporated into claim 1, thus obviating this rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. U.S. '490, taken with Tanaka et al. EP '597. The rejection is traversed.

The present invention is directed to improving the graft efficiency of a deproteinized natural rubber latex having a nitrogen content of 0.1 % by weight wherein the polymer is modified by graft polymerizing the deproteinized natural rubber with one of the claimed organic compounds.

On the contrary, the object of Kondo et al. is to obtain a uniformly granular polymer by adding a suspension stabilizer at the specific time of grafting an ethylenic monomer to the rubber polymer latex. Kondo et al. are totally silent with respect to

producing such a polymer having an improved graft ratio and graft efficiency of the natural rubber, or its use as an adhesive.

The Examiner, realizing the deficiencies of Kondo et al., relies on Tanaka et al. EP '597. While EP '597 discloses a starting material which is used for making the resultant rubber latex, EP '597 is totally silent with respect to modifying such a polymer as claimed in order to achieve a polymer having an improved graft ratio and graft efficiency. Accordingly, the rejection is not proper and should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact C. Joseph Faraci, Reg. No. 32,350, at 703/205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.


Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$390.00 is attached hereto.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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